

Other UDOT Traffic Information Brochures:

- Speed Limits
- Traffic Signals
- Left Turn Traffic Signals
- Pedestrian Signals
- Work Zone Safety

For More Information:

Please contact a UDOT Region Traffic Engineer located in your area of the State:

Northern Utah (801) 620-1600

Salt Lake County (801) 975-4900

Utah County (801) 227-8000

Southern Utah (435) 893-4799

Or visit the UDOT website at
<http://www.udot.utah.gov>

How can you help improve School Zone safety?

School Community Councils

Utah state law requires each public school to establish a School Community Council. Among other responsibilities, the School Community Council is responsible to establish a child access routing plan. The Council includes both parents and employees of the school. Participation from the public to the Councils are encouraged.

School Traffic Safety Committees

In addition, each school district is required by law to establish a School Traffic Safety Committee. The Committee includes school employees, PTA representatives, city or county officials, law enforcement, and UDOT when appropriate. Each School Community Council reports to the district School Traffic Safety Committee. Responsibilities of the Committee include approving the child access routing plans created by the School Community Councils. Comments and suggestions from the public to the School Traffic Safety Committees are also encouraged.

If your child's school does not have a child access routing plan, they need your help! Volunteer to serve in one of these groups — Get involved!



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SCHOOL ZONE SAFETY



**Division of Traffic
and Safety**

School Zones

In 1992, the Utah Legislature passed the “School Zone Safety Act.” The Act included several measures to improve the safety of pedestrians in the vicinity of Utah’s schools. Under this law, UDOT has developed statewide standards for the location, design, and operation of school zones. Each school is responsible to prepare a child access routing plan. This plan, which includes a map, describes recommended walking routes to school including all school crossings and traffic controls. This brochure provides a summary of the state law and the standards pertaining to School Zones.

What are the laws pertaining to School Zones?

The School Zone Safety Act includes the laws governing both the establishment and use of all types of School Zones. It establishes uniform signing and enforcement of Reduced Speed School Zones. Flashing lights are required during the hours of operation of the reduced speed limit. The fines for violating the reduced speed limit can rise as high as \$275 for the first offense, and \$525 for the second offense.

What is a School Zone?

Two common types of School Zones are **School Crosswalk Zones** and **Reduced Speed School Zones**.

School Crosswalk Zone

A School Crosswalk Zone is a special pedestrian crossing intended to protect school children as they cross the road. Typical signing includes the School Advance Warning Assembly and the School Crosswalk Warning Assembly (pictured).

Reduced Speed School Zone

A Reduced Speed School Zone establishes a 20 mph speed limit on the approach to a school crosswalk. The speed limit is reduced to 20 mph while the flashers are flashing. The school zone speed limit of 20 MPH applies from the School Speed Limit Assembly to the “End School Zone” sign (pictured).

How is a Reduced Speed School Zone established?

UDOT has developed specific standards for school zones as required by Utah law. These standards have been adopted as a School Zone Supplement to the “Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices” (MUTCD). This Supplement is titled “Utah Traffic Controls for School Zones” and is available on the UDOT Website at www.udot.utah.gov. Use of the School Zone Supplement ensures the same standards for all school zones throughout the state so that drivers become familiar with the standard location, signs, and operation of School Zones.

Warrant processes have been established for School Zones, including School Crosswalk Zones and Reduced Speed School Zones, to determine their appropriate use. School Zones cannot be used indiscriminately, as their improper use would result in driver indifference.

A School Crosswalk Zone must be warranted before a Reduced Speed School Zone can be considered. The warrant criteria for a School Crosswalk requires a minimum of 10 school children using a crosswalk and an average daily traffic of at least 500 vehicles on the road. Crosswalks not meeting this criteria are marked as regular pedestrian crosswalks.

Once a School Crosswalk Zone is warranted, an engineering study can be performed to determine if a Reduced Speed School Zone is

warranted. The study considers:

- Vehicular and pedestrian volumes;
- Available gaps in traffic;
- The posted speed limit on the road;
- The presence of a stop sign or traffic signal at the school crosswalk; and,
- The type of school: elementary, middle, or high school.

What are the common signs used in School Zones?

The **School Advance Warning Assembly** is placed in advance of School Crosswalk Zones and Reduced Speed School Zones to warn drivers that they are entering a School Zone. Drivers should have a heightened awareness of pedestrians.



The **School Crosswalk Warning Assembly** is placed adjacent to the school crosswalk to show the driver the location of the crosswalk. Drivers should be prepared to stop at the crosswalk.



The **School Speed Limit Assembly** is placed in advance of the school crosswalk. The exact location is determined by the posted speed limit. The speed limit of 20 MPH is in effect only when the attached lights are flashing.



The reduced speed in a Reduced Speed School Zone is in effect between the School Speed Limit Assembly and the “End School Zone” sign. The “End School Zone” sign is generally located 50-feet beyond the school crosswalk.

